

REMARKS

In the Office action mailed December 26, 2006, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,452,933 (Duffield).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview in which the Examiner suggested that independent claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, and 19 would be placed in condition for allowance if they were amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2. In response to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, and 19 to include the limitations of dependent claim 2. Thus, claim 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, and 19 are in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 7, 12, 16, and 23.

By making the amendments noted above, Applicants do not acquiesce in the claim rejections. However, Applicants have made the claim amendments without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution.

Now pending in this application are claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, 16-22, and 24-30 of which claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, and 19 are independent and the remainder are dependent. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and thus Applicants respectfully request notice to that effect.

If the Examiner believes it to be helpful, he is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at (312) 935-2352.

Respectfully Submitted,

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